Launching of 5000 PUARAs

1681. DR. VIJAY MALLYA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of implementation of the announcement made by the Prime Minister in Independence Day Address from the Red Fort regarding launching 5000 PUARAs (Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas);

(b) what facilities are proposed to be provided under this scheme and whether any blue print has been drawn up for the proposal;

(c) what is the order of investment required to implement the project;

(d) how many such projects are proposed to be set up in Karnataka; and

(e) the time-frame by which these projects will be set up in Karnataka?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM, RAJU): (a) to (e) A strategy for Provision of Urban Services in Rural Areas (PURAs) is being formulated by the Planning Commission. The Proposal would focus on providing power, water, roads, telephone and internet connectivity, marketing facility and upgradation of educational and health facilities in the selected villages using a cluster approach. The detailed modalities are being worked out.

Labourers engaged in the works of village development

1682. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of labourers engaged in the works of village development in different States in the year 2002-2003;

(b) the number of mandays provided for each labourer on the average during the year 2001-02, 2002-03 and 2003-04 upto 31st October, 2003, State-wise; and

(c) the funds spent for the projects from the Central Government and from the State Government for the last three years.